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people among the low hills of the plateau, produced a type of people entirely different from those in the open, low plains of Sharon and along the Phœnician coast. The positive character of the Jew and the lack of positive characteristics among the Philistines are ascribed to these differences of surroundings.

Following the chapters which discuss the effect of the country on the people of Biblical days, the author devotes several concluding chapters to evidences of permanent changes of the climate, in respect to amount of rainfall. The climate of ancient Palestine is described, and evidences that it has changed are found in fluctuations of the level of the Dead Sea; in the ruins of ancient towns where water does not now exist; in the signs of former extensive cultivation, where naked rock now forms much of the surface. Some of these things, as the naked rock, where vineyards and olive groves once stood, have been ascribed to unwise deforestation. But the author is not inclined to accept that view. A change from moist conditions to aridity has been, he believes, a more potent factor. Reading the book certainly inclines one to accept the author's interpretation, so vividly and so convincingly are the transformations pictured.

Not every reader will be willing to go as far as the author does in accounting for human conditions and traits on the physical basis. Some question may be raised about the reliability of traditional accounts of Palestine, for use as scientific evidence. Objection may be made to some interpolated explanations, as the effect of mountains on rainfall (p. 86), and the rather profitless comparison of Palestine and California. But no one can deny that the book is charmingly written outside these parts, and that it makes most real the setting of many Biblical stories, formerly only half appreciated.

As an example of geographic investigation, thoroughly done and well written, few recent books contain so much of human interest.

WALTER S. TOWER.

University of Chicago.

Hutchinson, Woods. *We and Our Children.* Pp. x, 371. Price, \$1.20. New York: Doubleday, Page & Co., 1911.

Of the great variety of readers interested in any serious discussion of children, some will approve of "We and Our Children," because it is modern, biological and essentially iconoclastic; others will admire the breezy, hearty way in which the author disposes of some of the "problems" which worry over-serious minds; still others will like the book for the many opportunities it offers them to differ with the writer. All will be interested because it is suggestive, stimulating and entertaining. Biological facts are used in a familiar, if not always exact way, the evolution of man in whole and in parts is assumed, and the outlook is forward to the stronger and better race. The book is really a popular discussion of eugenics.

Each page has a challenge, an attack, or an annihilation of some cherished tradition. "Piecing between meals," a custom no grown-up ever approves, in children, is endorsed. "A child's stomach must be stretched at

intervals, if it is to grow properly." Fortunately the youngsters are not likely to read the book. The American birth rate is satisfactory, although it has decreased from over five to three and a half in the past forty years. Better care and understanding of children have given us and other leading nations an accompanying increase in population. Dr. Hutchinson asserts that the American baby of to-day is the superior to any other baby in weight, length, and vitality, and this advantage is retained by the American school child.

The modern mother, particularly the American mother, is not a traitor to her family and her race, as is so often charged by eugenic alarmists. Judged by the "real and supreme test of any civilization the production of strong children," the modern mother is the best the world has ever produced, all of which is very gratifying to national pride; the disregard of controverting facts should be charged to emphasis or enthusiasm.

The idea introduced in the discussions of eyes and ears, that these necessary organs wear out before we are ready to dispense with them because they are designed by nature for only forty or fifty years' use and hygiene and sanitation have prolonged the average age to seventy, is not likely to find approval in the face of present knowledge. Nor again, when it is stated that an examination of the skulls of mound builders and American Indian tribes has shown that every known disease and deformity of the teeth which exists to-day existed hundreds of years ago, and that our teeth are as good as those of any race at any time. Current dental knowledge does not bear out the claim. One of the leading dentists of the country, also a scientist, says: "Such sweeping statements are unfair. It has been my good fortune to examine the skulls of different early peoples, here and abroad. While it is possible to occasionally find a decayed tooth and a deformity in the dental arch, they are not of the character observed in modern civilization—due to arrest of development of face and jaws."

Written for those who realize what a difficult job it is "to be a daddy," it would be a very ignorant or an extremely wise parent who could not profit by its reading.

A. H. YODER.

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Johnson, Amandus. *The Swedish Settlements on the Delaware: Their History and Relation to the Indians, Dutch and English, 1638-1664.* Two volumes. Pp. xxxii, 897. Price, \$6.00. New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1911.

Two points are especially noteworthy on examination of Dr. Johnson's work; its documentation and the close mastery of detail. In order to elicit in full the truth and to write an exhaustive history of his subject he has spared no pains and has left no stone unturned in his keen search for material. It is safe to say that few investigators have come to the writing of a subject with such thoroughness of preparation, and that few works are based upon a surer foundation of authoritative documentary evidence. Dr. Johnson tells us in his preface that he made "three trips to Sweden, two to Holland and England, and one to Finland, in search of documents and